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University of Montana

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MEDIA RELEASE

August 26, 1988

UM REPS TO VISIT BILLINGS SEPT. 6

MISSOULA --

University of Montana President James Koch and more than 30 UM representatives will visit Billings Tuesday, Sept. 6, as part of a Sept. 6-9 bus trip to southeastern Montana.

A major purpose of the tour, which will also take in Miles City, Colstrip and Hardin, is to build support for Referendum 106. That measure would renew the six-mill levy that funds the Montana University System. Other goals include making Billings residents more familiar with UM and strengthening ties with alumni and business people.

In addition, the trip to Billings will include a test of UM's satellite uplink with Eastern Montana College, where the University will begin offering a master's degree in business administration this fall.

Taking part in the test will be UM business Dean Larry Gianchetta, telecommunications Director Dave Wilson and Associate Professor of Accounting Terry Beed. Beed will teach the first course in the new program, which will offer classes by EMC and UM professors. Some courses will be on site; others will be televised.

Accompanying President Koch on the tour will be UM faculty

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and staff members, administrators, students and alumni. Among them will be the deans of the business, pharmacy, fine arts, education, forestry and journalism schools; admissions and financial aid directors; alumnus and Referendum 106 advocate Hal G. Stearns; past UM Alumni Association president Dan Marinkovich; and student government President Jennifer Isern.

Also participating will be Dave Calahan, president of First Interstate Bank-Missoula. The First Interstate BancSystem of Montana has provided more than half the funding for the trip, with the remaining portion coming from private donations, says UM Vice President for University Relations Sheila Stearns.

Koch and a number of faculty members will visit Billings Senior, Skyview and West high schools, as well as Central Catholic High School. UM admissions director Mike Akin and financial aid Director Mick Hanson will talk to school officials about University System admission standards and financial aid.

Members of the group also plan to call on professionals in their fields. For example, pharmacy Dean David Forbes will call on local pharmacists, and journalism Dean Charlie Hood will spend time with local media.

Other activities will include get-togethers with alumni and friends of the University and a **press conference** for all local media at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room at First Interstate Bank-Billings.

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